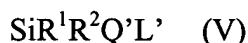


**Amendments to the claims**

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

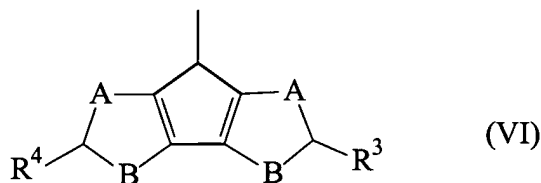
Claim 23 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a ligand of formula (V):



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; optionally R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents;

Q' is a moiety of the general formula (VI):



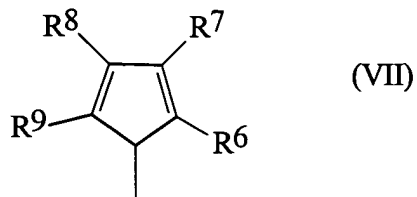
~~and~~ or its double bond isomers,

~~wherein A, B, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are defined as described as in claim 1;~~

wherein A and B are selected from sulfur (S), oxygen (O) or CR<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> being selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; either A or B being different from CR<sup>5</sup>, and wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; if A is S or O, B is CR<sup>5</sup> or if B is S or O, A is CR<sup>5</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

L' is a moiety of the general formula (VII):

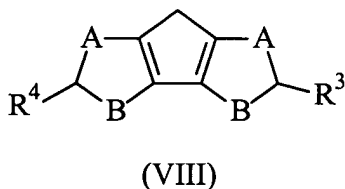


and or its double bond isomers,

wherein ~~R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are defined as described as in claim 1, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>~~  
~~and R<sup>9</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,~~  
~~C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl~~  
~~radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the~~  
~~Periodic Table of the Elements; and at least two adjacent R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> can~~  
~~form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally bearing substituents and~~  
~~optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic~~  
~~Table of the Elements;~~

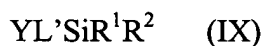
comprising the following steps:

- i) treating ~~the a~~ compound of formula (VIII) with at least one equivalent of a base selected from the group consisting of metallic sodium and potassium, sodium and potassium hydroxide and an organolithium compound;



wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; A, B, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are defined as above;

- ii) contacting the corresponding anionic compound obtained ~~under~~ from step i) with a compound of general formula (IX):



wherein L', R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> have the meaning described ~~as in claim 1 above~~ and Y is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of fluoride, chloride, bromide and iodide[[:]].

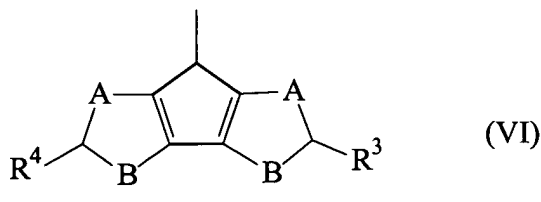
Claim 24 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a ligand of formula (V); ~~as defined in claim 23~~



wherein

$\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; optionally  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents;

$\text{Q}'$  is a moiety of the general formula (VI):

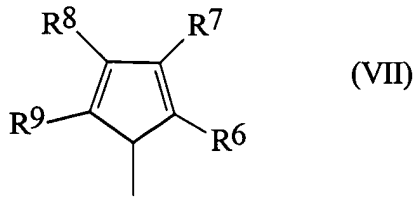


or its double bond isomers,

wherein A and B are selected from sulfur (S), oxygen (O) or  $\text{CR}^5$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  being selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; either A or B being different from  $\text{CR}^5$ , and wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; if A is S or O, B is  $\text{CR}^5$  or if B is S or O, A is  $\text{CR}^5$ ;

$\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$\text{L}'$  is a moiety of the general formula (VII):

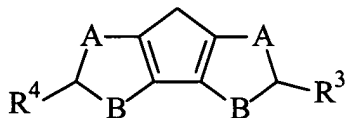


or its double bond isomers,

wherein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; and at least two adjacent  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  or  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  can form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally bearing substituents and optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

comprising the following steps:

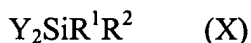
- i) treating ~~the a~~ compound of formula (VIII) with at least one equivalent of a base selected from the group consisting of metallic sodium and potassium, sodium and potassium hydroxide and an organolithium compound;



(VIII)

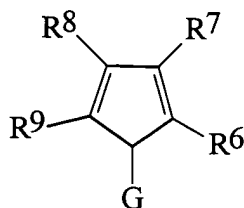
wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; A, B,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are defined as ~~in claim 1~~ above;

- ii) contacting the corresponding anionic compound obtained ~~under~~ from step i) with a compound of general formula (X):



wherein  $L'$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  have the meaning described ~~in claim 1~~ above and Y is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of fluoride, chloride, bromide and iodide;

- iii) contacting the product obtained in step ii) with a compound of formula (XI):



(XI)

wherein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  ~~are described as in claim 1~~ have the meaning reported above and G is ~~selected from~~ sodium, potassium and or lithium[[,]].

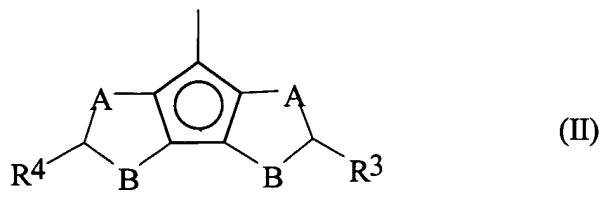
Claim 25 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a metallocene of the general formula (I):



wherein ~~Q, L,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , M, X and p~~ have the meaning as defined in claim 1,  $\text{SiR}^1\text{R}^2$  is a divalent group bridging the moieties L and Q;

$R^1$  and  $R^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; optionally  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents;

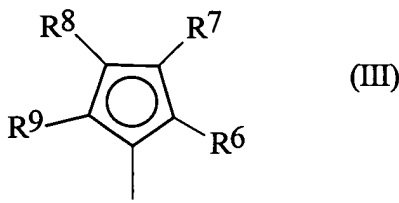
Q is a moiety of formula (II):



wherein A and B are selected from sulfur (S), oxygen (O) or  $\text{CR}^5$ ,  $R^5$  being selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; either A or B being different from  $\text{CR}^5$ , and wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; if A is S or O, B is  $\text{CR}^5$  or if B is S or O, A is  $\text{CR}^5$ ;

$R^3$  and  $R^4$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$ -aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$ -arylalkyl optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

L is a moiety of formula (III):



wherein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; and at least two adjacent  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  or  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  can form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally bearing substituents and optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

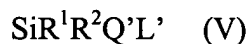
M is an atom of a transition metal selected from those belonging to group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide groups in the Periodic Table of the Elements,

X, the same or different from each other, is a ligand selected from hydrogen, halogen,  $R^{10}$ ,  $OR^{10}$ ,  $OSO_2CF_3$ ,  $OCOR^{10}$ ,  $SR^{10}$ ,  $NR^{10}_2$  or  $PR^{10}_2$  group, wherein  $R^{10}$  is selected from hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

p is an integer of from 1 to 3, being equal to the oxidation state of the metal M minus 2;

comprising the following steps:

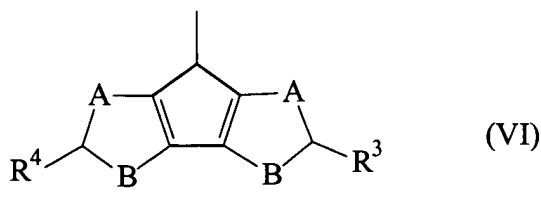
- a) contacting a ligand of formula (V):



wherein

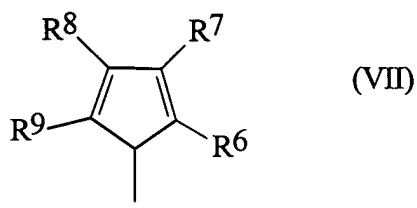
$Q'$ ,  $L'$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are defined as in claim 26

$Q'$  is a moiety of the general formula (VI):



or its double bond isomers, wherein A, B,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are defined as above;

and L' is a moiety of the general formula (VII):



or its double bond isomers, wherein R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are defined as above;

with a base, wherein the ratio between said base and the compound of formula (V) is at least 2,

- b) contacting the obtained product with a compound of formula MX<sub>p+2</sub>, wherein M, X and p are defined as in claim 1 above.

Claims 26-29. (canceled)

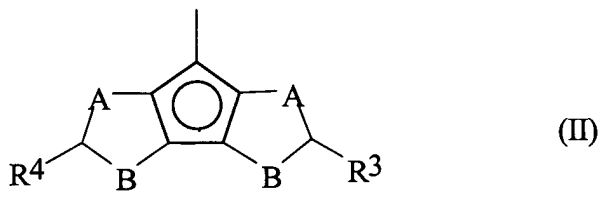
Claim 30 (currently amended) A metallocene compound of formula (I)



wherein ~~R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, L, Q, M, X and p have the meaning as in claims 1-10~~ SiR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup> is a divalent group bridging the moieties L and Q;

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; optionally R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents;

Q is a moiety of formula (II):

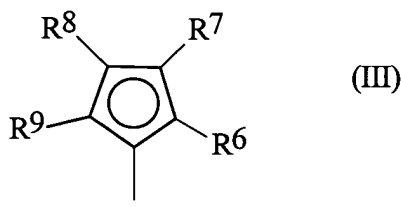


wherein A and B are selected from sulfur (S), oxygen (O) or CR<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> being selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; either A or B being different from CR<sup>5</sup>, and wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; if A is S or O, B is CR<sup>5</sup>

or if B is S or O, A is CR<sup>5</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

L is a moiety of formula (III):



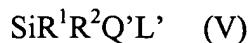
wherein R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; and at least two adjacent R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> can form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally bearing substituents and optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

M is an atom of a transition metal selected from those belonging to group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide groups in the Periodic Table of the Elements,

X, the same or different from each other, is a ligand selected from hydrogen, halogen, R<sup>10</sup>, OR<sup>10</sup>, OSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, OCOR<sup>10</sup>, SR<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>10</sup><sub>2</sub> or PR<sup>10</sup><sub>2</sub> group, wherein R<sup>10</sup> is selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

p is an integer of from 1 to 3, being equal to the oxidation state of the metal M minus 2.

Claim 31 (currently amended) A ligand of formula (V):

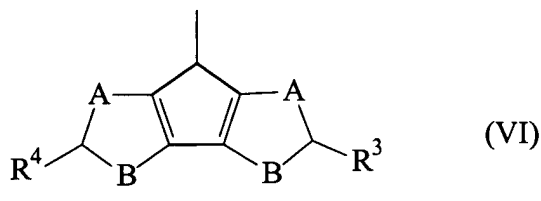


wherein ~~R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, L' and Q'~~ have the meaning as in ~~claims 1-10~~ R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl



radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; optionally  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents;

$Q'$  is a moiety of the general formula (VI):

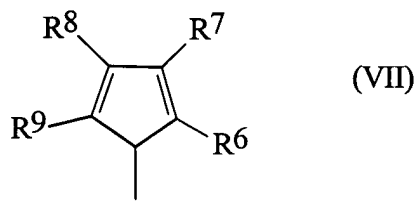


or its double bond isomers,

wherein A and B are selected from sulfur (S), oxygen (O) or  $CR^5$ ,  $R^5$  being selected from hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; either A or B being different from  $CR^5$ , and wherein the rings containing A and B have a double bond in the allowed position having an aromatic character; if A is S or O, B is  $CR^5$  or if B is S or O, A is  $CR^5$ ;

$R^3$  and  $R^4$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$L'$  is a moiety of the general formula (VII):



or its double bond isomers,

wherein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ -alkenyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; and at least two adjacent  $R^6$  and  $R^7$

or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> can form a ring comprising from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally bearing substituents and optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (new) A copolymer of ethylene with propylene and a polyene, having a content of ethylene derived units comprised between about 50 mol% and 99 mol%, a content of propylene derived units comprised between about 1 mol% and 50 mol% and a content of a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-polyene derived units comprised between about 0 mol% and 30 mol%, and having the following characteristics:

(A) the % by mole content of propylene in the copolymer (%P) and the ratio EPE/(EPE+ PPE + PPP), wherein EPE, PPE and PPP represent the sequences ethylene/propylene/ethylene, propylene/propylene/ethylene and propylene/propylene/propylene respectively in the copolymer, satisfy the following relationship:

$$0.01\%P + \text{EPE}/(\text{EPE} + \text{PPE} + \text{PPP}) \geq 1$$

(B) less than 1% of the CH<sub>2</sub> groups in the polymeric chain are sequences (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is an even number.

Claim 34 (new) The copolymer according to claim 33, wherein a product of reactivity ratios  $r_1 \cdot r_2$ , wherein  $r_1$  is the reactivity ratio of propylene and  $r_2$  that of ethylene, is lower than 0.2.

Claim 35 (new) The copolymer according to claim 33, having an intrinsic viscosity (I.V.) > 0.5.